

kindliness : selfishness may be blunted by kindness or sharpened by cruelty.

Turning in the first place to the influence of the social impulses in linking men together, we observe that, like the maternal impulse, they are and uninformative until, focussed by propinquity, they find their object in the persons whom we see around us. We insensibly defer to our close companions : friends may be more to us than relatives : our charity is moved more strongly by sights than by tales of distress. Men who have lived amongst alien races—and may criticize them severely—will defend them in case of need even against their own kin. Anglo-Indian officials will champion the cause of Indians against such belittlement as is implied by the immigration policy of the South African government. But the propinquity may be ideal as well as actual : notions of it may be evoked by conceptions that arise out of memories, as well as by the impressions of our senses. The idea that another is a blood relation predisposes us towards him. So also do ideas of comradeship in religion, in business, or in opinions. A Mohammedan is drawn towards a Mohammedan, a surgeon towards a fellow-surgeon, a radical in politics towards another radical. Ideas of closeness that arise in this fashion have been of immense importance in human progress : they are, indeed, the foundation upon which much of our social

structure rests. Sympathy that is
born of sight
or touch may be stronger than can be
generated
by ideas of fellowship. But obviously it
can bind
only a small society : and towns,
countries. and
nations would lose all coherence were
their
inhabitants not welded together by
the wider
feelings which may be aroused by ideal
concep-
tions of relationship. The history of
the birth
of these conceptions—whether
religious, social,